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DECCA
A CHORAL CHRISTMAS
VOCES8 FOUNDATION CHOIR & ORCHESTRA
VOCES8 · BARNABY SMITH

1 **Joy to the World** (tune: "Antioch" · text: Isaac Watts) **4.16**
arr. Taylor Scott Davis © MorningStar Music Publishers

2 **Away in a Manger** (music: William J. Kirkpatrick · text: anon.) **4.03**
arr. Taylor Scott Davis © MorningStar Music Publishers

3 **The Sleeping Child** (music: Bob Chilcott · text: Charles Bennett) **3.25**
© Oxford University Press

4 **O Come, All Ye Faithful** (music: John Francis Wade **5.08**
text: John Francis Wade & v.3: Jean-François-Étienne Borderies;
transl. Frederick Oakeley & v.3: William Thomas Brooke)
arr. Taylor Scott Davis © MorningStar Music Publishers

Taylor Scott Davis
MAGNIFICAT

5 I. Magnificat anima mea **5.39**
6 II. Shall I Rejoice (text: Dr Terry York) **5.48**
7 III. Et misericordia **6.55**
8 IV. Deposuit **3.04**
9 V. Gloria Patri **6.30**
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10 **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** (music & text: anon. **4.52**
transl. John Mason Neale & Henry Sloane Coffin)
arr. Taylor Scott Davis © MorningStar Music Publishers

11 **Silent Night** (music: Franz Xaver Gruber **6.49**
text: Joseph Mohr; transl. John Freeman Young)
arr. Taylor Scott Davis © MorningStar Music Publishers

12 **In dulci jubilo** (music: anon. **3.19**
text: Henry Suso; transl. Robert Lucas de Pearsall)
arr. Robert Lucas de Pearsall, ed. Reginald Jacques
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13 **Gabriel's Message** (music: anon. Basque **4.10**
text: anon. Basque; adapt. Sabine Baring-Gould)
arr. Jim Clements © Peters Edition Ltd

14 **A Christmas Cracker** (music: Thomas Hewitt Jones) **3.38**
© Encore Publications

15 **Sleigh Ride** (music: Leroy Anderson) **3.10**
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VOCES8

Andrea Haines (solo: 6), **Molly Noon** sopranos
Eleonore Cockerham soprano (5–9)
Katie Jeffries-Harris, Barnaby Smith (Artistic Director) altos
Blake Morgan, Euan Williamson tenors
Sam Dressel tenor (5–9)
Christopher Moore baritone · **Jonathan Pacey** bass

VOCES8 Foundation Choir (1, 2, 4–11, 13)

Ilid Jones oboe solo (11) · **Mark Bennett** horn solo (2)
Jack Liebeck violin solo (2, 11) · **Thomas Gould** violin solo (7)
Emma Denton cello solo (2)

VOCES8 Foundation Orchestra (1, 2, 4–11, 13–15)
guest leader **Jack Liebeck** (1, 2, 4, 10, 11, 13–15)

Barnaby Smith conductor

VOCES8 Foundation Choir

Soprano I
Andrea Haines, Eleonore Cockerham, Lydia Wonham

Soprano II
Molly Noon, Penny Appleyard, Libby Percival

Alto I
Katie Jeffries-Harris, Sarah Luttrell, Martha McLorinan

Alto II
Clare Stewart, Luthien Brackett, Elizabeth Nurse

Tenor I
Samuel Jenkins, Oscar Golden-Lee, Oli Martin-Smith

Tenor II
Euan Williamson, Sam Dressel, Owen Elsley

Bass I
Christopher Moore, Greg Skidmore, Ross Cumming

Bass II
Jonathan Pacey, Greg Link, Sam Poppleton

VOCES8 Foundation Orchestra

Violin I
Jack Liebeck *leader*, Thomas Gould, Matt Denton, Liz Cooney, Jeremy Isaac, Jo Watts, Jonathan Lee, Brian Wright, Natasha Humphries

Violin II
Michelle Flemming, Raja Halder, Daniel Oates, Kathryn Parry, Stelios Chatziiosifidis, Davina Clarke

Viola
Eoin Schmidt-Martin, Nicola Hicks, Ben Harrison, Charlotte Bonneton

Cello
Emma Denton, Yvonne Parsons, Julia Graham, Ros Acton

Double Bass
Jonathan Moss, Laurence Ungless

Flute
Gareth McLearnon, Abigail Burrows

Oboe
Ilid Jones, Alec Harmon

Clarinet
Julian Bliss, George Sleightholme

Bassoon
Lois Au, Alex Callanan

Harp
Olivia Jaguers

Trumpet
Russell Bennett, Sam Piece, Tom Griffiths

French Horn
Mark Bennett, Nic Hougham, Matt Cooke, Nicholas Ireson

Trombone
Matthew Lewis, Rory Cartmell, Barry Clements

Tuba
Nick Etheridge

Percussion
Rachel Gledhill, Glyn Matthews, Lewis Blee, Luke Taylor

Timpani
Scott Bywater

Drum Kit
Mike Smith

I have always enjoyed VOCES8's final concert before Christmas. It is invariably preceded by Secret Santa in the dressing room accompanied by festive music, and is a much-loved opportunity to indulge in the romantic vision of Christmas: silver bells, flying reindeer, Father Christmas, and of course, carol singing.

Suspending belief, coming together with friends and family, and refreshing ourselves ahead of a New Year with new challenges was something many of us were unable to do in 2021. Our answer was to create a new digital concert for our LIVE From London festival which we hoped would help people re-engage with their seasonal cheer.

Taylor Scott Davis has an ability to orchestrate with vivid pictorial colour; to engage the imagination of the listener with cinematic soundscapes that transport us to worlds we could only dream of seeing in person. Taylor seemed an obvious choice to create a suite of new carol arrangements composed to reacquaint contemporary listeners with the spirit of Christmases past, present and future. The outcome is a collection of scores that are broader, deeper and more enrapturing than I could have hoped; indeed, so good that we are delighted to be able to give them renewed life here.

Taylor's ability to orchestrate had become known to me when we had the opportunity to record his new setting of the Magnificat text, pre-pandemic, in 2019. I'm drawn to his music because it both plays to a traditional heritage, but also lives and breathes with new ideas and imagination. Originally it had been conceived that the Magnificat would sit alongside his Mass and other choral works, but to pair it with these new carol arrangements seemed like an ideal fit, given its music and joyful texts align so well.

In truth, this is an album that was never meant to be, but sometimes the best things in life are unexpected. Complimenting Taylor's vivid works are festive orchestral favourites, an orchestration of Jim Clement's acclaimed setting of *Gabriel's Message*, and a cappella items from VOCES8; *In dulci jubilo* and the world-premiere recording of Bob Chilcott's angelic new carol, *The Sleeping Child*; a gift from Bob to the group during the pandemic which will live long in the repertoire of choirs around the world.

This music filled my life with the joy I needed in 2021, and I sincerely hope it brings you fun and festive cheer. I'm thrilled it has found a life beyond its original conception and proud to set it free into the world, where I hope it will reach as many households as Santa himself.

Barnaby Smith

Warmest wishes for the merriest of Christmases! If the prospect of a new vision of timeless carols and liturgy has brought you to this album, I hope you enjoy unwrapping this little gift of sound.

After several years of friendship, Barnaby inquired about my setting of the Magnificat which had been commissioned and premiered by our mutual friend, Matt Greer. His idea, to which he was completely committed, was to record and perform the work in the summer of 2019… only he had never heard the piece. In the session, after the first notes were played, he turned and asked, "are you happy?". I could only respond with a question, "are you kidding?".

The result was a brilliant recording that felt like it gave a modern sound to words which have echoed throughout centuries both liturgically and through the everyday eyes of new mothers. The burst at the beginning is me creating the sound of Mary hearing the good news. Movement II, "Shall I Rejoice", is a new text by my friend Dr Terry York, commissioned for this work and designed to give Mary a voice of confidence even as she asks questions. The next two movements are linked by the rhythm of 16th notes: "Et misericordia" is dark and rich, if smoky, as the urgent rhythm scatters the proud and mighty and raises up the lowly; "Deposuit" flows gently as a sense of hope takes over. The "Gloria Patri" ties all of it together, channelling exuberance, mystery, and sturdiness.

The carols, then, were recorded two years later whilst still in the grip of COVID. Barnaby called in late September 2021 to ask if I could arrange some standard carols for the VOCES8 Foundation's LIVE From London festival. Full orchestra, a choir second to none, it was an invitation to join him in a musical playground – who could say no to that? I owed him scores by the first of November, so with just under six weeks, I had to complete a carol every five or six days. I wrote until I couldn't, masked up and boarded a plane to London, my anticipation and anxiety weighing more than my suitcase. The project was as fun as it was challenging, and to watch the orchestra and choir breathe life into each carol felt like absolute magic. It all feels like a dream now. One I won't soon forget.

Taylor Scott Davis

1 **Joy to the World**! the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

The Sleeping Child

3 Sleeping child, I wonder, have you a dream to share?
May I see the things you see as you slumber there?

I dream a wind that speaks, like music as it blows
As if it were the breath of everything that grows.
I dream a flock of birds flying through the night
Like silent stars on wings of everlasting light.

I dream a flowing river, deep as a thousand years,
Its fish are frozen sorrow, its water bitter tears.
I dream a tree so green, branches wide and long,
And ev'ry leaf a voice, and ev'ry voice a song.

I dream of a babe who sleeps, a life that's just begun.
A word that waits to be spoken.
The promise of a world to come.

Charles Bennett

4 **O Come, All Ye Faithful**,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels:
Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
(Refrain)

See how the Shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh
with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps:
(Refrain)

Sing, choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God
In the Highest:
(Refrain)

Magnificat

I.

5 **Magnificat anima mea** Dominum.
Et exultavit spiritus meus
in Deo salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem
ancillae suae:
ecce enim ex hoc
beatam me dicent omnes generationes.
Quia fecit mihi magna
qui potens est:
et sanctum nomen ejus.

My soul magnifies the Lord.
And my spirit has rejoiced
in God my saviour.
For he has regarded the low estate
of his handmaiden:
for behold, henceforth all generations
shall call me blessed.
For he who is mighty
has done great things to me;
and holy is his name.

II.

6 **Shall I Rejoice** for Christ in me,
the first of such to say?
All that this child shall ever say or be
now lives and grows in me.
Shall I rejoice for Christ in me,
his name forever mine?
I yield to him my life's identity;
Christ lives and grows in me.
Shall I rejoice for Christ in me,
both glory and disgrace?
My song shall be both joy and agony;
Christ lives and grows in me.
Shall I rejoice for Christ in me,
as clouds and shadows rise?
I ponder scenes that I don't want to see.
Christ lives and grows in me.

III.

7 **Et misericordia** ejus a progenie
in progenies timentibus eum.
Fecit potentiam in brachio suo;
dispersit superbos
mente cordis sui.

And his mercy is on them
who fear him from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud,
even the arrogant of heart.

IV.

8 **Deposuit** potentes de sede,
et exaltavit humiles.
Esurientes implevit bonis:
et divites dimisit inanes.
Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae.
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.

He has deposed the mighty from their seats,
and exalted the humble.
The hungry he has filled with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy.
As it was spoken to our fathers,
to Abraham and his seed forever.

V.

9 **Gloria Patri**, et Filio,
et Spiritui Sancto.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and every shall be, world without end.
Amen!

10 **O Come, O Come Emmanuel**,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust Thou brought us forth to life,
Deliver us from earthly strife.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Silent Night

11 Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born!

Silent night, Holy night
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,

12 ***In Dulci Jubilo***

Let us our homage show:	
Our heart's joy reclineth	
In praesepio;	In a manger;
And like a bright star shineth	
Matris in gremio,	On the mother's lap,
Alpha es et O.	You are Alpha and Omega.
O Jesu parvule,	O little Jesus
I yearn for thee always!	
Hear me, I beseech thee,	
O puer optime;	O best of boys;
My prayer let it reach thee,	
O princeps gloriae.	O Prince of glory.
Trahe me post te.	Lead me unto you.
O patris caritas!	O Father's love!
O nati lenitas!	O gentleness of the Son!
Deeply were we stained.	
Per nostra crimina:	Through our sins:
But thou hast for us gained	
Coelorum gaudia,	The joys of heaven,
O that we were there.	
Ubi sunt gaudia,	Where there are joys
If that they be not there?	
There are Angels singing,	
There the bells are ringing	
In Regis curia.	In the king's court.
O that we were there.	

Gabriel's Message

13 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow his eyes as flame.
"All hail", said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

"For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."
Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favoured lady," Gloria!

VOCES8: **voces8.com**
The VOCES8 Foundation Choir and Orchestra: **voces8.foundation**
VOCES8 is managed by Robin Tyson: **voces8.com**
Jack Liebeck, Taylor Scott Davis and Barnaby Smith are managed by Libby Percival: **percius.co.uk**
LIVE From London: **livefromlondon.org**

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